

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated January 23, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and stated that claims 14-18 are allowed.

As indicated above, rejected claims 1-2 and 4-13 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the application contains allowed claims 14-18.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: April 20, 2006

By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas

Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620